



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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SECOND BAKERSFIELD LASER WIELDER PLEADS GUILTY

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent- in-Charge Drew S. Parenti, and Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood announced today that KENDRA CHRISTINE SNOW, 26, of Bakersfield, California, entered a guilty plea in federal court today to attempting to interfere with the safe operation of a Kern County Sheriff's Department helicopter by shining a handheld laser into the cockpit.

The case is the product of an investigation conducted by the Bakersfield Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kern County Sheriff's Department, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who is prosecuting the case, SNOW admitted that on November 8, 2007, at about 10:55 p.m., she intentionally pointed a green laser beam at, and illuminated the cockpit of, a Kern County Sheriff's Department helicopter that was flying at 500 feet above ground-level during a routine patrol in Bakersfield, California. When the light hit the cockpit, it disoriented the Kern County Sheriff's pilot, causing pain and discomfort in his eyes for a couple of hours. Lasers, an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation, pose a safety hazard to flight operations. The focused beams of a laser remain powerful at extended viewing distances and can expose pilots to radiation levels above those considered to be flight safe. Brief exposure to even a

relatively low-powered laser beam can cause discomfort and temporary visual impairments, such as glare, flash blind, and afterimages.

According to court documents, the pilot and a tactical observer were able to pinpoint the origin of the laser beam at the Bakersfield residence of JARED JAMES DOOLEY, 28. On November 27, task force members executed a federal search warrant, locating a handheld green laser device in DOOLEY's pickup truck and a red laser device in his home. SNOW later told investigating agents that she and her boyfriend, DOOLEY, were standing in the driveway on November 8 and "taking turns shining the laser around watching the tracers in the sky." They also indicated they had purchased the green laser device from a Radio Shack store sometime in October. The FBI confirmed that Radio Shack sells an identical laser device, which retails for approximately \$50 and has warning labels printed on the device and the instruction guide.

On July 18, DOOLEY entered a guilty plea to interfering with the safe operation of the Kern County Sheriff's Department helicopter.

According to a 2005 Congressional research report, a rash of incidents involving lasers aimed at aircraft cockpits has raised concerns over the potential threat to aviation safety and security. Anyone with information regarding the use of lasers to interfere with aircrafts should contact the FBI.. The number for the Bakersfield Office of the FBI is (661) 323- 9665.

Both SNOW and DOOLEY face a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and a \$250,000 fine. Their sentencing is scheduled for October 10, 2008, at 9:00 AM before United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill.

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